

Wixom Lake Improvement Board (WLIB)
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2021

Meeting called to order by Joe Sova at 6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Carol Ayers, Joe Sova, Ray Drumright, Larry Woodard, Robert Kelley, Jeanette Snyder, Don Zackett, Karen Moore, Terry Walters

Board Members Absent: none

Others in Attendance: Norma Stuart from Midland County Drain Commission, Lucy Zeestraten from Gladwin County Drain Commission, Paul Hausler and another individual from Progressive AE, 2 members of public

After the pledge of allegiance, election of officers was addressed. Terry Walters made a motion for Joe Sova to serve as chairman. The motion was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Kelley made a motion for Ray Drumright to serve as secretary. The motion was seconded by Larry Woodard. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Sova made a motion for Terry Walters to serve as treasurer. The motion was seconded by Larry Woodard. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

A revised agenda for the meeting was presented. Larry Woodard made a motion to approve the revised agenda which was seconded by Terry Walters. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members reviewed minutes from the August 12, 2020 meeting.

A motion to accept and file minutes was made by Carol Ayers and seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote with Karen Moore abstaining. Motion carried.

A financial statement showing an account balance of \$342,645.44 as of 1/31/2021 was presented. Terry Walters made a motion to accept and file the statement. Larry Woodard seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Hausler presented a letter dated October 30 2020 to former chairman Enos from Progressive AE detailing a proposal to maintain the Wixom Lake Improvement Board website (www.wixomlakeboard.org). Advantages/disadvantages of maintaining the site as well as alternatives were briefly discussed. Norma will contact Paul, assess options, and make a proposal. The general sentiment was that the board would allow domain to lapse and transition to county (Midland and Gladwin) maintained websites and perhaps have some type of linkage to the Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF) website.

New Business:

Don Zackett spoke about woody vegetation growth on the lake bed. Cottonwood and Willow trees are growing prolifically. In fertile areas he estimates that the trees could reach 30 feet tall in 5 years. Even at significantly less height, the trees will present challenges and hazards upon return of lake to normal level. Don described both mechanical (mowing) and herbicide control options. The most cost effective

approach was described as aerial spraying with a helicopter which was positioned as approximately half the cost of ground based herbicide application. Don estimated that the cost for aerial spraying (including the herbicide) would be about \$200-250/acre. The ideal time to make a treatment would be the middle to end of August. Treatment would only be in the WLIB district, cover only portions of the main lake bed (i.e. not include canals), could approach to within about 10 feet of shoreline, and would stay away from the current river channel (i.e. not treat over water). Don indicated (and Paul Hausler agreed) that a permit from EGLE would not be required for treatment of dry areas of lake bed.

The board member list and contact information was reviewed and minor edits recorded to email and physical addresses.

Old business

In order to utilize WLIB funds for purposes other than invasive/nuisance aquatic weed management a public hearing must be held. Larry Woodard made a motion to start the process to use WLIB funds for treatment of woody terrestrial growth on Wixom Lake bottom lands in the WLIB district. The motion was seconded by Terry Walters. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Norma Stuart will explore dates and venues for a public hearing. A tentative starting point is July 17th at Beaverton High School with flexibility to alter day, time, and venue to fit schedules and availabilities. Once firmed, mailings will be sent and notices of the hearing published.

Public Comment:

Andre Sefcsik, Hay Township resident, indicated that he and neighbors mowed trees last fall and that it was effective with no noticeable return of the growth so far this year. Andre also commented that he felt that special assessment districts were an undue burden on impacted residents and that other sources of funding such as a county wide millage or state funding should be pursued more vigorously to restore the lakes.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Robert Kelley was seconded by Carol Ayers. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. 7:51 pm.

Next WLIB meeting tentatively scheduled for July 8 2021 to prepare for public hearing.

Minutes submitted by Norma Stuart and Ray Drumright